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Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment.

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January 1, 2008

Dear Immunization Provider:

In accordance with State Regulation 61-8, the enclosed "Schedule of Required Vaccinations, Screening and Immunizations for School Admittance" and "Required Standards of Immunization for Day Care Attendance" will be applicable for the 2008-2009 school year. Changes from the 2007-2008 schedule include:

- 1) The addition of one grade – eighth grade – to the requirement for one (1) dose of varicella vaccine (two doses are required for unimmunized children aged 13 years and older) or positive history of disease for all children admitted to five year old kindergarten, first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh grade. This extends the varicella requirement to grades K-8.
- 2) Increasing the requirement of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis from three (3) to four (4) doses, with at least one (1) dose received after the fourth birthday for all children admitted to 5 year old kindergarten, first, second, third, and fourth grade. This change makes the school immunization requirements (for 5K through 4th grade) and day care immunization requirements consistent. According to school immunization audits over the past six years, 98.5% of students entering kindergarten and first grade consistently meet this requirement.

Immunization requirements for School Admittance apply to all grades (five-year-old kindergarten through grade 12) and begin for children who have attained the age of five (5) years and are attending five-year old kindergarten. Immunization requirements for Day Care Attendance apply to all children ages 3 months through five (5) years. Therefore, any child not enrolled in five-year old kindergarten must meet the Day Care Attendance immunization requirements if attending day care or a child development or school-based 4K or younger program, even if attendance is in a school setting.

Please communicate this information as extensively as you deem appropriate. Procedural and other questions may be directed to the Regional Immunization Manager for each Public Health Region as shown on the DHEC Immunization Webpage "contacts" tab @ <http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/immunization/docs/contacts.pdf> or DHEC's Immunization Division in Columbia at 898-0460 or 1-800-277-4687 (1-800-27-SHOTS).

Sincerely,

Lisa F. Waddell, MD, MPH
Deputy Commissioner for Health Services

Enclosure

cc: South Carolina School System

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2008 - 2009 School Year

REQUIRED STANDARDS OF IMMUNIZATION FOR DAY CARE ATTENDANCE

Minimum Immunization Requirements for Day Care Attendance

Pursuant to Section 44-29-180 of South Carolina State Law, children less than six years of age who attend a licensed public or private child day care facility, a registered church or religious child day care facility, or child development program for K4 and younger must present to the day care facility (or school if the program is in a school setting) a South Carolina Certificate of Immunization (DHEC form 1148), which assures they are "up-to-date" or "catching-up" on the childhood immunizations recommended and routinely provided by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).

Minimum Immunization Requirements for the Final Certificate for Day Care Attendance¹

Also pursuant to Section 44-29-180 of South Carolina State Law, DHEC has declared the following required standards of immunization necessary for a child to receive the immunization certificate for day care attendance in South Carolina.

Four (4) doses of any combination of DTP, DT, DTP-Hib, or DTaP vaccine.

Three (3) doses of any combination of oral or inactivated Polio vaccine.

Three (3) doses of Hepatitis B vaccine.

Current, age-appropriate Haemophilus influenzae type b conjugate vaccination according to the currently published immunization schedule*.

One (1) dose of Rubeola (Measles) vaccine received on or after the first birthday.

One (1) dose of Rubella (German Measles) vaccine received on or after the first birthday.

One (1) dose of Mumps vaccine received on or after the first birthday.

One (1) dose of Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine received on or after the first birthday or positive history of disease.

Current, age-appropriate Pneumococcal vaccination according to the currently published immunization schedule*.

¹Minimum requirements for a final certificate for day care attendance should not be confused with the ***Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule** as published by DHEC and approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).



**2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR SCHEDULE
OF REQUIRED VACCINATIONS, SCREENINGS,
AND IMMUNIZATIONS FOR SCHOOL ADMITTANCE**

Pursuant to Regulation 61-8, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control has declared the following schedule of required vaccinations, screenings, and immunizations necessary for a child to be admitted to any public, private, or parochial school, grades five year old kindergarten through twelve (5K-12).

Minimum Requirements

Four (4) doses¹ of any combination of DTP, DT, DTP-Hib, DTaP, Td, or Tdap vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday.

¹ This immunization requirement only applies to students entering five-year-old kindergarten, first, second, third, and fourth grades in school year 2008-2009. Students previously enrolled in grades 5 through 12 met the requirement as stated for the school year in which they entered school.

If the fourth dose of DTaP, DTP, or DT is administered before the fourth birthday, a booster dose is required at 4-6 years of age. The fifth dose is not required if the fourth dose was given on or after the fourth birthday. The minimum interval between DTaP dose #3 and #4 or #4 and #5 is six months.

Three (3) doses² of any combination of oral or inactivated Polio vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday.

² If all four IPV doses are administered after 6 weeks of age and are all separated by at least 4 weeks, a fifth dose is not needed, even if the fourth dose was administered before 4 years of age.

Two (2) doses of Rubeola (Measles) vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least one month.

One (1) dose of Rubella (German Measles) vaccine received on or after the first birthday.

One (1) dose of Mumps vaccine received on or after the first birthday.

Three (3) doses of Hepatitis B vaccine.

One (1) dose of Varicella vaccine received on or after the first birthday or positive history of disease for all children admitted to kindergarten, first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. Two (2) doses of varicella vaccine, separated by at least one month, are required for unimmunized children 13 years of age and older who have no positive history of disease.

Exemptions

Students may be exempt from these immunization requirements for the following reasons:

1. Medical Contraindication

An exemption from these immunization requirements due to a medical contraindication described on the South Carolina Certificate of Immunization, signed by an individual licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy, or his/her authorized representative, may be granted to a child when the physician or osteopath has determined that a particular vaccine(s) required by this schedule is not advisable for the child. If it is determined that this particular vaccine(s) is no longer contraindicated, the child will be required to have the vaccine(s). The temporary or permanent nature of this exemption shall be noted in the appropriate spaces on the South Carolina Certificate of Immunization (DHEC form 1148).

2. Religious Exemption

A South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption may be granted to any student whose parents, parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis signs the appropriate section of the South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption stating they are members of a recognized religious denomination in which the tenets and practices of the religious denomination conflict with immunizations.

3. Special Exemptions

A South Carolina Certificate of Special Exemption, signed by the school principal or his/her authorized representative, may be issued to transfer students while awaiting arrival of medical records from their former area of residence or to other students who have been unable to secure immunizations or documentation of immunizations already received. A South Carolina Certificate of Special Exemption may be issued only once and shall be valid for only thirty (30) calendar days from the date of enrollment. At the expiration of this special exemption, the student must present a valid South Carolina Certificate of Immunization or a valid South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption.

The South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption may be obtained from the Department of Health and Environmental Control. The Department of Health and Environmental Control also provides blank forms of the South Carolina Certificate of Immunization to immunization providers, and blank forms of the South Carolina Certificate of Special Exemption to schools.

61-8.08
